Miscellanea.

Projected Works.—Tenders have been called for, by advertisement, for erecting a congregational church in Kentish Town; two wards at the workhouse in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields; various works (including plumbers', carpenters', &c.) necessary in the building, rebuilding, repairing, &c., of sewers and other works connected therewith in Holborn and Finsbury, for 3 years (separate tenders); erecting and completing the several works of the new battery at Point, Portsmouth; executing certain works in repairing St. Dunstan's church, Stepney; excavating the wet dock and half-tide basin of 22¼ acres, at Sunderland, and building the walls surrounding same with entrances thereto; making and completing a tramway of 1,260 yards lineal at Southampton harbour, with rails, &c.; erecting wards and washhouses at the Blything Union Workhouse, Bulchamp; paving, repairing, and keeping in order for 3 years the stone carriage-way and foot-pavements of St. Mary-le-Strand parish; also for constructing 3½ miles and 5 miles of the Vale of Neath railway; and building a large viaduct through the city of Gloucester, and bridges over the Severn, on the Dean Forest and South Wales railway.

The New Marbles in the British Museum.—We mentioned last week, that the marbles which had been sent from Nimrood, by Mr. Layard (from whom we publish a communication in our present number), had reached the British Museum, and were exposed to view. In our last volume, we gave Mr. Layard's own account of the discovery, and description of the bas-reliefs.* They consist of slabs ranging from 6 ft. 4 in. long, by 2 ft. wide, to 7 ft. 6 in. long, by 3 ft. wide, and exhibit representations of battles, and a lion hunt; comprising also, the head of a king attended by his eunuch, the size of life, and a winged divinity with the head of an eagle. It will be observed, on examination, that inscriptions, in the arrow-headed characters, are cut upon them in straight lines, passing indifferently over the ground of the sculpture and the raised parts. In one, representing a siege, is a semicircular-headed doorway, with a zig-zag ornament around it.

Metal Gilding.—The relative merits and peculiarities of the three modes, namely, by amalgam, by galvanic action, by mere immersion, have been rather curiously brought to light by the simple test of nitric acid applied by M. Barral. The article, when attacked by dilute acid, yields a pellicle or scale of gold pure on the inner surface if electro-gilt, or by immersion; but if by amalgamation, of a reddish brown colour, shewing that the coating has been united with the substance of the article by a double amalgamation, so that the old process is a more solid one than the new; but then the pellicle of the old process is full of minute but distinct holes, through which the mercury had been driven off, while the pellicle of the new is quite opaque and solid, so that the latter is much better adapted to vessels in domestic use liable to the action of acids, while the former will probably stand mechanical tear and wear with much more hardiness and endurance.

Prevention of Railway Robberies.—Sir: It has occurred to me that, by the adoption of the following simple plan, railway robberies may be effectually prevented. Most companies now place a label on the luggage. Suppose, in addition thereto, the party affixing the label asked the passenger his name, or initial, and marked it with *sympathetic ink* on the label, already affixed. At the journey's end passengers may, as now, select their own luggage; but if, on passing out with it (or at some other convenient point) an officer were authorized to ask the name, or initials, a stroke with a brush would in an instant reveal the name, before concealed, and the almost certain identity of the claimant, or the thief, would stand detected. If this plan were adopted only occasionally, *at uncertain intervals*, it would prove a considerable check. F. B.

Perpetual Motion.—This vain delusion, if not still in force, is at least as standing a fallacy still as ever. Joseph Hutt, a framework-knitter, in the enlightened town of Hinckley, professes to have discovered it, and only wants 20*l.*, as usual, to set it agoing.

* See Vol. IV. p. 399.

The Serpentine River for Bathers.—Sir: A correspondent of the 6th of March last, called your attention to this subject, proposing, that as from the removal of the gravel from the bottom at various times, there are many holes which render it dangerous to bathers, it should be filled up to a uniform depth. Now, I would go farther than this, I should propose, that a portion of it, say about 400 or 500 yards of its length at the east end, be inclosed, and separated from the rest, by a wall, and that this portion be 2 feet deep on each side, and increase gradually in depth, from these two points towards the middle, where let it be 5 feet 6 inches in depth or thereabout. The water might be renewed by means of gratings in the dividing wall, so as to let the water in, and the water of the bath might pass gradually out through the small stream which passes out at the end of the river; in this manner, the water would be constantly renewed, as the outer part will be supplied by the springs which abound there. This inclosure might, with a little money and a little intellect, be made to present a considerable deal of that architectural appearance so much neglected in many places.

St. Stephen's, Walbrook.—Our remarks on the disgraceful state of this building have awakened attention to the subject; it is to be hoped they may have the effect intended. One correspondent, "T. I. M.," has forwarded us a plan for a proposed new street from the front of the church to Southwark bridge, printed in the parliamentary report on Metropolis Improvements in 1838, and again recommended in 1843 by the London Bridge Committee. This would expose the church to view, and he suggests certain architectural additions to the outside of it. Our present object, however, is the preservation, repair, and adornment of the *inside*. Another correspondent inquires if it be true that a part of the church is in private occupation, thereby increasing the risk of fire, and urges that the churchwardens should themselves immediately move in obtaining the reparation of the structure.

Shakspeare's House.—It has been suggested to us that the 2,000*l.* required to prevent the destruction or removal of Shakspeare's house, might be raised by a guinea subscription, conferring on each subscriber a proprietorship in it to the extent of a two thousandth part, and the right of voting for the election of some person in reduced circumstances connected with the legitimate drama, who should reside there and receive all fees paid, with the exception of a sufficient sum each year to maintain the building in repair.

Patent Rock-drilling Machine.—Experiments have been tried with a new machine on the rock of Kendal Fell. The new machine, worked by a horse, and adapted to railways from an instrument used upon canals in America, "will render rock cuttings a mere bagatelle," says a contemporary. A hole was bored, and a mass of rock 363 tons in weight displaced in six hours, a feat which would require the energies of sixty men. At Beattock Summit, on the Caledonian railway, this machine it is said will immediately be brought into active use.

Bridge over the River Meuse.—The bridge over the Meuse, at Val St. Lambert, now being erected for the Namur and Liege railway, from the design of Mr. George Rennie, the engineer, has five arches of 82 feet span each. The rise from the springing of each arch to the soffit of the key-stone is 10 feet. The bridge is of stone, rusticated, with a cornice and parapet, and has a large sculptured wreath over each pier in the spandrels.

Tintern Abbey.—Since last Christmas, an important addition has been made to the ruins, by the discovery of the remains of a large oblong building, supported by a row of pillars, the lower parts of which appear in a perfect state. The situation of this adjunct (nearly adjoining the refectory), is thought to mark it as the hospitium, or smaller convent, in which the monks were wont to entertain strangers.

Fishmongers' and Poulterers' Institution.—On Wednesday last Lord Morpeth laid the foundation-stone of an asylum for aged and infirm fishmongers and poulterers, at Wood-green, near Hornsey.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"J. L. H."—An objection to the apparatus in question, has already appeared in our pages.

"E. B."—Many thanks.

"P. C."—Apply to a surveyor.

"J. F."—Nicholson's.

Received.—"J. R. B." "W. B." "M. R." "C. H. C." "J. R." "H. L." Beverley. "J. A." Stamford-street. "T. B. L." "G. E." "J. M." "J. H. B." "J. G. N."

"Books, Prices, and Addresses."—We have not time to point out books or find addresses.

Errata in last number, page 298, 2nd column, 1st line, *for* "point," *read* "front."

ADVERTISEMENTS.

SURVEYING AND LEVELLING.

MR. HENRY CASTLE, Lecturer at King's College, London, and Author of "Engineering Field Notes," and of the "Elementary Text Book" for Surveyors and Levellers both of which are now ready at Messrs. Simpkins, Marshall, and Co., Stationers' hall-court; will commence his Private Vacation Class for terms. Field Work on the 8th July next. Fee for the Class, Five Guineas.

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Course 3.—Architecture, Building, and Draughting, will commence on Thursday, July 1st.

Course 4.—Measuring and Valuing of Land, Timber, Buildings, Townships, &c., will commence on Friday, July 2nd.

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